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4. (Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein said MeX material is selected from the group consisting of titanium aluminum nitride, titanium aluminum carbonitride, and titanium aluminum boron nitride.

5. (Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein Me comprises at least one further element selected from the group consisting of born, zirconium, hafnium, yttrium, silicon, tungsten, and chromium.

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9. (Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the stress within said at least one layer, σ , is

1 GPa $\leq \sigma \leq$ 6 GPa.

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Sub

10. (Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the content x of titanium in said Me is:

70 at.% $\geq x \geq$ 40 at.%.

11. (Amended) the tool of claim 1, wherein the content y of aluminum in said Me is:

30 at.% $\leq y \leq$ 60 at.%.

12. (Amended) The tool of claim 10, wherein the content y of aluminum in said Me is:

30 at.% $\leq y \leq$ 60 at.%.

Add the following claims:

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24. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein $Q_I \geq 5$.

25. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein $Q_I \geq 10$.

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26. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein $1 \text{ GPa} \leq \sigma \leq 4 \text{ GPa}$.

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27. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein $1.5 \text{ GPa} \leq \sigma \leq 2.5 \text{ GPa}$.

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28. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein the content of x of titanium in said Me is $65 \text{ at.} \% \geq x \geq 55 \text{ at.} \%$.

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29. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein the content of aluminum in said Me is $35 \text{ at.} \% \leq y \leq 45 \text{ at.} \%$.

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30. (New) The tool of claim 10, wherein the content y of aluminum in said Me is $35 \text{ at.} \% \leq y \leq 45 \text{ at.} \%$.

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31. (New) The tool of claim 30, wherein the content of x of titanium in said Me is $65 \text{ at.} \% \geq x \geq 55 \text{ at.} \%$.

REMARKS

Applicants submit the three articles requested in the Office Action. These articles are also of record in the now cross-referenced U.S. Patent Nos. 6,071,560 and 6,274,249.

The rejection of Claims 2-5 and 9-12 under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 are deemed fully addressed by the above broadening amendments to those claims and the